

But the bottom line here is, as the gentleman from Michigan was explaining at the top of the hour, we had 10 years, we had a lot of time, where the gentleman mentioned the USS *Cole*, the Marine barracks in Lebanon, the embassies, and it goes on and on. What did we do? It was a series of drawing a line in the sand, and let me suggest not a very deep one, and a series of double-dog-dare-you.

And what happened? The Twin Towers attack on September 11, 2001. I want to remind, Mr. Speaker, all of my colleagues, that that indeed was not the first attack. It happened in 1993. And what did we do? It is just like, you bomb an aspirin factory?

The gentleman from Michigan put it in such great perspective. We are hearing from the other side, and you are going to hear it for the next 6 months of this presidential election year, we know it, we have heard it, we have heard all about campaign rhetoric, are you better off than you were 4 years ago? They are trying to borrow a phrase from a great president, President Reagan. And what a wonderful job he did, probably one of the greatest presidents we ever had.

I will tell you, like the gentleman from Michigan said, we are better off than we were 4 years ago. But it is not so much important are we better off, but the world is better off. The world is a better place. It is kind of like borrowing from Charles Dickens in the *Tale of Two Cities*, on that first page, the first paragraph, when he said, it is the worst of times, it is the best of times.

Well, in many ways it is the worst of times. It is always a bad time, a very bad time when we are losing men and women who are paying the ultimate sacrifice defending this country. Even though we agree with Thomas Jefferson when he said that every now and then the Tree of Liberty has to be nourished again by the blood of patriots.

That is what is going on today. Those are the worst of times, but they are the best of times, because we, by the grace of God, have a Commander-in-Chief, a leader of this country, that is a man of faith, a God-fearing President with resolute determination, and he will lead this country out of the morass that we find ourselves in, because it is the right thing to do.

I am so appreciative for having an opportunity to share a little time with the gentleman from Michigan, because the story needs to be told.

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Reclaiming my time, we talk about are we better off. Think about it. It is 1995–1996. We have been attacked a few different times in a few different places around the globe. We know that the organization that is attacking us is a terrorist organization. It is not a nation state, so it does not have a defined boundary. It does not have buildings that you could go and occupy or you could declare war on.

So, what is the response that we have in the intelligence community in 1995–1996? We may have talked about this the last time we had an opportunity to do a special order. It is the called the Deutch Doctrine. Deutch was the head of the CIA during that time.

Are we better off? Well, the response to terrorist organizations, to the uncertainty in Iraq, Saddam was in there. A few years later he kicked out the UN inspectors and continued to flaunt the different resolutions that came out of the UN.

What was the response in the intelligence community to what was a growing and emerging threat? It was the Deutch Doctrine, which says, well, if you are in the field in the CIA and you are thinking about recruiting spies, if they have any human rights violations or they have a criminal record, they really need to go through a special screening process. And, by the way, we do not really want to do business with those kinds of folks. So if you want a career-ending move, send us a bunch of folks that have questionable backgrounds and tell us you would like to recruit them to be spies. In effect, we closed down our human intelligence.

We took a look at what was going on in Iraq prior to the war and what was going on there the last few years. We have excellent imagery from space. We can see buildings and we can see trucks and people moving around, but we do not know what is actually in the building. We can guess. We do not know exactly what is on the minds of the people. Are they stockpiling and producing weapons of mass destruction, or have they decided that they will put the facilities in place that once the UN is out? Do they think, we can produce the stuff in massive quantities in a very short period of time, a just-in-time inventory? We could not understand their strategy, because we went blind on the human intelligence side.

We went worse than that. We went through a process in the CIA that scrubbed the folks that were working for the CIA. What does that mean? Not only were we not going to recruit any more of these folks, but we also said, let us go through and see if we have any kind of these people working for us, and, if we do have these people working for us, it is time to cut them off.

My colleague and I, we know enough about al Qaeda, we know about the other kinds of terrorist organizations, we know enough about Saddam Hussein. The question is, what do you think the profile is? How many of the Eagle Scouts that we said we would only recruit to work for the CIA were in the tent with bin Laden or in one of the palaces with Saddam?

Mr. GINGREY. That is exactly right. As the gentleman said, back in the previous administration, they scrubbed it to the extent that if you had ever had a history of spitting on the sidewalk or jaywalking, you were ineligible to

work for the CIA or work in our intelligence.

You have got to fight fire with fire. These are bad guys. When you think of somebody in retaliation, as they might say, or retribution, because we had a few miscreants mistreating, horribly mistreating, and we do not condone that, in one cell block in Abu Ghraib prison in Baghdad, so, tit-for-tat, you chop off the head of a 26-year-old young man who is in Baghdad, who has a history of being compassionate and wanting to help people and do the right thing and maybe restore some communication networks in Iraq. That is what we are dealing with.

So, it is absolutely right. We fell asleep at the switch. But not in this administration. Not on this watch and this president. He immediately responded after 9/11 and told us, and reminded us, this war against terrorism, this is not going to end with the capture of Osama bin Laden. This does not end because we have found Saddam Hussein. He told us 2½ years ago that this war on terrorism is a global war, and it is something that is going to be with us for a long time.

These oceans no longer protect us. It is easy for people to forget.

I want to make one other point, if the gentleman from Michigan will allow me a little bit more time. You know, somebody told me today, I did not realize this, but I went to a movie recently, the premier of “Ike,” starring Tom Selleck, a great movie about the lead-up to Normandy, Operation Overlord, and the agony, of course, they went through in trying to time that mission and train the troops on the coast of England.

I did not realize that they actually practiced the invasion of Normandy there on the beaches in England. Of course, a lot of live fire was used practicing that invasion to make sure they got it just right, and over 700 of our soldiers were killed practicing for Normandy, for D-Day, because they were using live fire. There were some accidents that occurred, but we lost over 700 soldiers in the preparation for Normandy.

What if the our Greatest Generation, what if we were in a digital world back then and all that news got out to the 24 hour news network, and, oh my God, what would have happened? Maybe D-Day never would have occurred.

I realize, of course, we have lost over 700 by comparison, maybe 800 now in Iraq and Afghanistan, but we need to put it in perspective. If you ask the Greatest Generation, what should be our exit strategy in Iraq, they would quickly tell you the exit strategy is to win; to win. You do not pull your team off in the fourth quarter because the going gets tough. That is when the tough get going. That is with what made that generation the Greatest Generation.

I think today we may have an even greater generation with these young men and women, these 135,000, 140,000